

Andrew Jackson to Francis Preston Blair, August 9, 1838, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO FRANCIS P. BLAIR.

Hermitage, August 9, 1838.

My dear sir, I am still in the land of the living and have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your very kind and acceptable letter of the 29th of July last.

I have noted the information given by major Lewis to you as to what Mayo says with regard to his getting possession of my letter to Mr. Fulton. Mayo lies—he either stole it from the secrete bureau of the Indian Department, or from my confidential bureau. I well recollect his calling for his private and secrete charges made against many clerks in the Departments, and the admonition I gave the Doctor when I delivered them to him, but it is impossible that my letter to Mr. Fulton and his report to me (which was pretty lengthy) could have been with those papers of Mayo's and not seen by me. I recollect well of having my drawer open and some of my papers laid out upon my table to make room to search for the Doctors, which he had applied for to save himself from being exposed as the vilest calumniator on earth; and if the Doctor did not steal it from the files of the war department, must have stole it from my table whilst I was searching for his secrete slanders against the clerks of the differrent Departments, and with this letter Doctor Mayo has Mr. Fultons report to me. Dr mayo is a great scamp and surely after this the Secretary of War,¹ or no other Department will permit the Doctor to remain one moment in their employ or come within their doors or offices.

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1 On this point Blair, writing to Jackson Aug. 2, had already said: "I was pleased with Poinsetts promptitude. The moment I told him that Mayo was the Purloiner he ordered his dismissal. He left the city this morning for the Sulphur Springs where he is to join the President. He did not see Mayo's account of the interview between them, as he went out in the 6 o'clock cars. Of course Mayo's account is not true. Whether he will Condescend to correct his story I know not. I will send the paper to him with an inquiry."

So soon as I get Mr. J.Q. Adams answer to my letter which I sent under cover to you that it might safely reach him, I will address a letter to the President on the subject of Dr. Mayo, and surely from his own statement it was stealing as he converted the letter to his own use and did not return it—but be assured he stole it—he will lie, and the truth is not in him.

I was apprised by letter from the President of his intended trip to the Springs by the way of Norfolk, Richmond etc., etc. I have no doubt but it will have a good effect, but one thing you may rest assured of, that the Subtreasury will pass next Session, certainly by the next congress. I may not live to our next elections in Tennessee, but rely on it there is a great reaction in Tennessee and next election will send from Tennessee a majority to congress, of firm Democrats and in favour of a complete divorce between Govt. and all Banks. The President has only to pursue his course without the least shadow of turning and he, and the republican party will triumph. The conservatives are politically dead, and poor Richie who still adheres to his absurd plan "a special deposit in Banks", will find it hard labour to convince the Democratic republicans, that he is still one of them. *I pity him.*

I am truly happy to hear that your family are all doing well. I hope Elisa will outgrow her debility in the mountain air—my prayers are put up for the health and happiness of you and every branch of your family.

I am and have for some weeks laboured under great debility and shortness of breath. We are experiencing one of the severest droughts we ever had in this neighbourhood—we have had no rain in ten weeks, every thing burnt up. We will raise but little corn, potatoes

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or cotton, and we cannot sow turnips, but the Lords will be done. my little family are well
and all join in kind regards to you and your family and believe me

your friend